

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for generating revenue, comprising:

a) in a supply chain having multiple supply chain participants comprising independent suppliers, independent distributors, independent stores, and an independent supply chain manager that are connected by a supply chain management framework computer system, receiving an appointment from a buying supply chain participant of the independent appointing a supply chain manager for thea buying supply chain participant;

} not clear?

b) receiving a grant of granting authority to the independent supply chain manager to negotiate supply agreements between a selling supply chain participant and the independent supply chain manager on behalf of the buying supply chain participant;

c) the independent supply chain manager entering into the supply agreement, wherein the supply agreement has provisions including i) establishing a contract price for the good, and ii) requiring the selling supply chain participant to bill the buying supply chain participant at an invoice price to be determined by the independent supply chain manager which invoice price is different from the contract price; and

d) the independent supply chain manager establishing anthe invoice price for the good at various times during the term of the supply agreement.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising collecting the invoice price from the at least one buying supply chain participant.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the billing and collecting are performed at the direction of the supply chain manager.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an overpayment to a selling supply chain participant for a commodity is reconciled by paying the difference between the corresponding contract price and the corresponding invoice price to the supply chain manager.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein an underpayment to a selling supply chain participant for a commodity is reconciled by paying the difference between the corresponding invoice price and the corresponding contract price to the selling supply chain participant.

6. (Currently Amended) A system method for generating revenue, comprising:

a) a component in a supply chain having multiple supply chain participants comprising independent suppliers, independent distributors, independent stores, and an independent supply chain manager that are connected by a supply chain management framework computer system, receiving an appointment from a buying supply chain participant of the independent ~~appointing a supply chain manager for at the~~ buying supply chain participant;

b) a component for receiving a grant of ~~granting~~ authority to the independent supply chain manager to negotiate supply agreements between a selling supply chain participant and the independent supply chain manager on behalf of the buying supply chain participant;

c) a component for the independent supply chain manager entering into the supply agreement, wherein the supply agreement has provisions including i) establishing a contract price for the good, and ii) requiring the selling supply chain participant to bill the buying supply chain participant at an invoice price to be determined by the independent supply chain manager which invoice price is different from the contract price; and

d) a component for the independent supply chain manager establishing ~~an~~ the invoice price for the good at various times during the term of the supply agreement.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, further comprising logic for collecting the invoice price from the at least one buying supply chain participant.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the billing and collecting are performed at the direction of the supply chain manager.

9. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein an overpayment to a selling supply chain participant for a commodity is reconciled by paying the difference between the corresponding contract price and the corresponding invoice price to the supply chain manager.

10. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein an underpayment to a selling supply chain participant for a commodity is reconciled by paying the difference between the corresponding invoice price and the corresponding contract price to the selling supply chain participant.

11. (Currently amended) A computer program product method for generating revenue, comprising machine-readable program code for causing, when executed, a machine to perform the following method:

a) in a supply chain having multiple supply chain participants comprising independent suppliers, independent distributors, independent stores, and an independent supply chain manager that are connected by a supply chain management framework computer system, receiving an appointment from a buying supply chain participant of the independent appointing a supply chain manager for at the buying supply chain participant;

b) receiving a grant of granting authority to the independent supply chain manager to negotiate supply agreements between a selling supply chain participant and the independent supply chain manager on behalf of the buying supply chain participant;

c) the independent supply chain manager entering into the supply agreement, wherein the supply agreement has provisions including i) establishing a contract price for the good, and ii) requiring the selling supply chain participant to bill the buying supply chain participant at an invoice price to be determined by the independent supply chain manager which invoice price is different from the contract price; and

d) the independent supply chain manager establishing an the invoice price for the good at various times during the term of the supply agreement.

12. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising computer code for collecting the invoice price from the at least one buying supply chain participant.

13. (Original) The computer program product of 12, wherein the billing and collecting are performed at the direction of the supply chain manager.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein an overpayment to a selling supply chain participant for a commodity is reconciled by paying the difference between the corresponding contract price and the corresponding invoice price to the supply chain manager.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein an underpayment to a selling supply chain participant for a commodity is reconciled by paying the difference between the corresponding invoice price and the corresponding contract price to the selling supply chain participant.
